

**POLICY STATEMENT ON WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLANNING:
*BEST PRACTICES FOR WASTE MANAGERS***

Ministry of the Environment

Published on: June 12, 2007

This statement does not exempt waste managers from adhering to relevant provincial laws and policies when undertaking waste management planning decisions. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Part V, *Environmental Protection Act*,¹ and *Ontario Regulation 101/94* (Recycling and Composting of Municipal Waste), *Ontario Regulation 102/94* (Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Work Plans), *Ontario Regulation 103/94* (Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Source Separation Program), *Ontario Regulation 104/94* (Packaging Audits and Packaging Reduction), and *Ontario Regulation 347* (General — Waste Management);
- *Environmental Assessment Act*; and *Ontario Regulation 101/07*, EAA (Waste Managements Projects Regulation)
- Provincial Policy Statement, 2005, under the *Planning Act*; and
- Where relevant, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, under the *Places to Grow Act*, 2005.

See appendices for some relevant sections of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006.

This statement does not replace the requirements or obligations imposed on municipalities through other provincial policies, statutes or regulations.

¹ Italicized terms (unless they are the name of an Act) have been further defined in the Definitions section of this statement.

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Part I: Introduction

POLICY STATEMENT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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Part I: Introduction

Purpose

The Government of Ontario is committed to protecting the environment and human health, and conserving the province's natural resources. For waste management, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) develops, implements and maintains a regulatory framework for the management of hazardous and non-hazardous waste; issues approvals to waste disposal sites and waste haulers to ensure appropriate management; and undertakes inspections and enforcement activities. This includes requirements to minimise waste by reducing, reusing, recycling, composting and recovering resources.

Ontario has a long history of waste diversion based on the promotion of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle). Recycling initiatives gained momentum throughout the 1980s and 1990s as industry and municipalities embraced the 3Rs, and expanded significantly in 1994 with the introduction of the 3Rs regulations (Ontario Regulations 101/94, 102/94, 103/94 and 104/94, made under the *Environmental Protection Act*). For a number of years thereafter, few new policy or program initiatives were introduced at the provincial level. In 2002, the province passed the *Waste Diversion Act*, which established Waste Diversion Ontario as a non-government corporation to oversee extended producer responsibility-based diversion programs involving industry.

In recent years, Ontario has taken a number of important steps to strengthen and broaden the province's waste management approach and drive diversion, including:

- Making it easier to increase waste diversion, use specific waste as alternative fuel, and test new energy from waste technologies;
- Introducing a deposit return system for wine and spirit containers;
- Launching an extensive compliance effort to ensure that the IC&I sectors are meeting their obligations under Ontario Regulations 101-104;
- Requesting the development of a program plan for municipal hazardous or special wastes from Waste Diversion Ontario (completed June 2007), and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (winter 2008);
- Forming a partnership with Ontario industry and environmental organizations that will ensure 50 per cent reduction in the use of plastic bags by 2012 through expansion of reusable bag programs and consumer education;

- Committing to work with industry at the provincial and federal level to reduce the net environmental impacts of packaging; and,
- Supporting innovation and research to increase diversion.

As part of its commitment to give waste managers the tools they need to develop sustainable waste management solutions, Ontario is also introducing this Policy Statement on Waste Management Planning. The Policy Statement articulates the province's expectations for waste management in Ontario, outlines a framework and principles for decision-making by all waste managers and provides specific direction to guide the development of long-term municipal waste management plans. It is intended to achieve more consistent and timely waste management planning across the province and to make the decision-making process more transparent.

This Policy Statement sets out best management practices for the management of waste and creation of waste management plans, and the Province encourages all waste managers to face the challenge of waste management and follow this policy.

In particular, the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors (IC&I) generate significant quantities of waste that requires appropriate management. The Province challenges these sectors to consider the principles established here in minimizing the amount of waste produced, and therefore minimizing waste management requirements for both the business sectors and municipalities.

Context

An expanding economy and a growing population are placing heavy demands on Ontario's natural resources and straining our ability to effectively manage the environmental impacts of growth. For example, the population of Ontario's fastest growing region, the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), is expected to increase by an additional 3.7 million people by 2031. Managing the increasing volume of waste is one resulting challenge.

Provincial planning documents recognize the importance of creating well-planned policies to manage the waste created by our growing population. In the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005, the province expressed the need to integrate land-use planning (including waste management planning) and planning for growth in order to maintain strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and a strong economy.

In the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, the province provides policy direction to guide decisions on a wide range of growth-related issues, including urban form, infrastructure planning and resource protection. The Growth Plan aims to guide infrastructure investment decisions to address current shortfalls and provide for future needs. It also discusses the importance of coordinating land-use planning with infrastructure planning.

The province's history of promoting, encouraging and providing guidance to municipalities in waste management planning dates back to the early 1980s. Provincial guidance has emphasized the need for long-term, forward-thinking area waste management planning coordinated with land-use planning. However, Ontario communities do not always assess what their waste management needs will be over a 20 to 25 year period, or take steps to ensure that they can meet those needs. This gap in planning is evident across the province, but it is of particular concern in rapidly developing urban areas, where residential and commercial growth is competing with other land uses.

A failure to adequately plan for effective waste management infrastructure has led to many undesirable circumstances. The following are key examples:

- Ontario cannot sufficiently manage all waste generated.
- Progress on waste diversion is slow.
- Existing public and private waste management infrastructure are under great pressure to handle increasing quantities of waste.
- Waste is being exported out of Ontario for management.

Exporting waste is not a sustainable long-term solution because it creates broader problems. It generates greenhouse gases from long-distance truck transport, causes social discord (as many communities oppose siting of landfills for other communities in their municipality) and could potentially create economic challenges for Ontario businesses and municipalities required to search for alternative solutions.

Part II: Framework for Waste Management Decisions

This section provides direction to all waste managers.

Part II: Framework for Waste Management Decisions

The Way Forward — Expectations for Waste Management in Ontario

To address Ontario's waste management challenges, progressive and cooperative approaches are needed to ensure that sustainable systems and services are available over the long-term.

Planning for appropriate waste management infrastructure is vital to building strong, healthy and prosperous communities. As we move forward and our communities continue to grow, we must anticipate future waste management needs. Greater consideration needs to be given to developing local solutions.

A holistic approach should be taken when assessing different waste management options in order to minimize our environmental footprint (e.g., minimized need for new resources, conserving land, and fewer pollutants generated, including the greenhouse gases responsible for climate change). Source reduction should always be considered as a first step. Where reduction is not possible, we must embrace programs and technologies that increase diversion and recognize the value in waste. By simply disposing of waste (in a landfill, for instance), we lose potentially valuable resources.

We all have a role to play in addressing our waste management challenges and contributing to the provincial goal of 60% diversion from disposal — and the private sector in particular can play a vital part. Through better waste management planning (including waste diversion), the IC&I sectors can demonstrate leadership in responding to our waste management challenges and make a valuable contribution towards protecting the environment and conserving our natural resources.

The province also encourages the producers and stewards of those products that end up in Ontario's waste stream to take greater responsibility for the well-being of our natural environment, and ensure that the environmental impacts of the products produced and/or consumed in the province are appropriately managed throughout their life cycle.

A. Waste management principles

Ontario's framework for waste management decisions protects the environment and public health, is committed to resource conservation, encourages innovation and promotes sustainable systems.

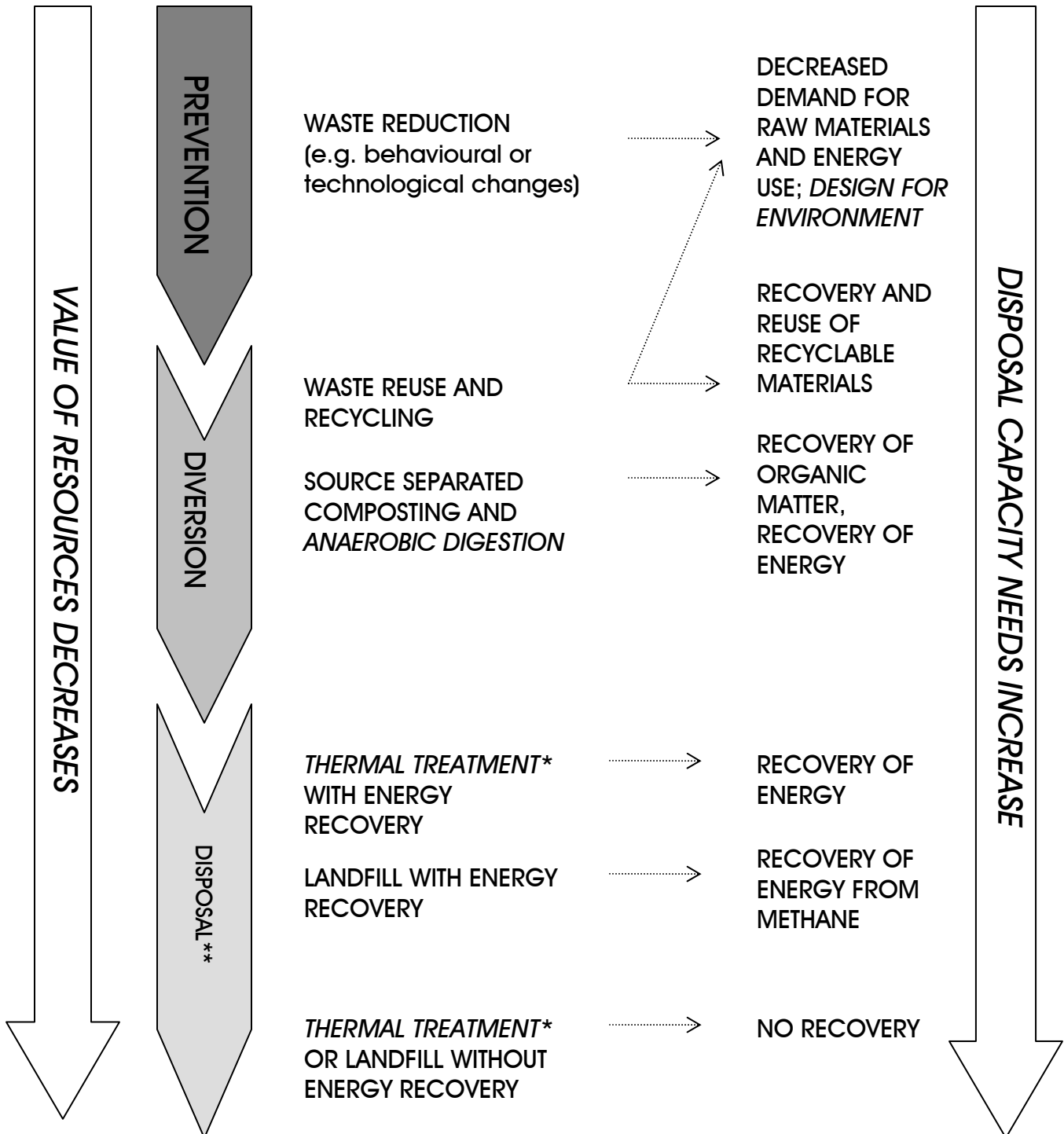
To achieve these goals all waste management decisions, including those made by municipalities and the private sector, should consider the following principles:

- a. Environmental protection is a shared responsibility.
- b. Integrated waste management systems that reflect local circumstances are in place.
- c. Diversion of materials from final disposal is maximized in consideration of the provincial 60% diversion target, including the creation of incentives where appropriate.
- d. Public and private sectors cooperate, where possible, to realize cost savings and maximize efficiencies.
- e. Waste management choices consider economic, social *and* environmental costs.
- f. Investment in infrastructure is made to accommodate growth.
- g. Waste is managed as close to the source of generation as possible.
- h. Producer responsibility is incorporated into waste reduction and management.
- i. Decision-making is open and transparent.
- j. Informed citizens support waste management choices and participate in waste management programs.
- k. Maximum value from waste is recovered from the waste stream (see Figure 1: The Waste Value Chain).
- l. Innovative waste management technologies and approaches are incorporated as appropriate to local circumstances to achieve sustainable solutions.

B. The waste value chain

The waste value chain emphasizes waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting and all forms of resource recovery before considering final disposal. As illustrated in Figure 1, as the value inherent in waste diminishes, disposal needs increase.

Figure 1: The Waste Value Chain



* With potential use of ash or recovery of metals.

** Waste managers should consider waste reduction as a first priority, followed by diversion. All disposal options have unique environmental concerns and should only be considered as a last option. Where disposal is necessary, waste managers should carefully reflect on these environmental concerns in light of their local circumstances. Recovering energy from landfill or thermal treatment should be considered prior to thermal treatment or landfill without energy recovery.

C. Roles and responsibilities

All parties involved in waste management — the province, municipalities, private sector waste management industry, IC&I sectors, the public and environmental groups — have a role to play in achieving sustainable waste management and a responsibility towards the environment.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Province

- Set and enforce environmental standards and requirements for waste diversion and disposal.
- Support municipalities and the private sector by providing the necessary tools for waste diversion and the disposal of residual waste.
- Issue approvals to waste disposal sites and waste haulers to ensure appropriate management.

Municipalities

- Plan for and provide direct waste management services to their residents, and in some cases, local businesses, including programs for waste diversion and disposal of residual waste.
- Plan for, site and invest in necessary waste management infrastructure.
- Comply with provincial waste management standards and requirements.
- Fund and implement diversion programs under the *Waste Diversion Act*.

Private Sector Waste Management Industry

- Provide waste services to clients of the IC&I sectors, and in some cases, through contract to municipalities, waste services to residents.
- Comply with provincial waste management standards and requirements.

The IC&I Sectors

- Plan for, and help reduce, the amount of waste generated by their operations.
- Comply with provincial waste management standards and requirements.

Producers and Stewards

- Minimize the life-cycle impacts (i.e. environmental footprint) of products and their packaging through *Design for the Environment*.
- Fund and implement diversion programs under the *Waste Diversion Act*.

The Public

- Help reduce the amount of waste generated through their activities and choices.
- Engage in waste management decisions and participate in waste prevention and diversion programs.

Environmental Groups

- Promote the need to reduce waste and conserve our natural resources.
- Raise public awareness of waste management issues.

Part III: Guidelines for Developing a Municipal Waste Management Plan

This section provides direction to municipal waste managers.

Part III: Guidelines for Developing a Municipal Waste Management Plan

The following guidelines describe the Ministry of the Environment's expectations of an effective waste management plan.

These guidelines are relevant to all municipalities.

Context

Long-term waste management plans are essential to ensure that integrated and sustainable waste management systems are provided that:

- address our waste management objectives, including a commitment to meet the provincial target of 60% diversion from waste disposal;
- avoid waste disposal capacity issues by ensuring the necessary resources are committed to meet the needs of Ontario's communities, now and in the future (e.g. investing in infrastructure, services and systems);
- ensure waste is managed as close to the source of generation as possible;
- meet the requirements set out in provincial planning documents, such as the Provincial Policy Statement and Growth Plan, to address the long-term growth and development of communities (see the Appendix);
- are supported by Ontario's communities, through citizen engagement and transparent decision-making; and
- improve access to consistent and comparable municipal data.

Plans developed in accordance with these guidelines could also facilitate the approvals process for waste management facilities, as a municipality may have the opportunity to provide the Minister with information from another planning process, which he/she will be able to use-for decision-making purposes (see Section 4.0 for more information on integration with approvals processes).

Where a municipality has already developed, or is in the process of developing a waste management plan, the Ministry encourages that adjustments be made, where necessary, to ensure the plan (or planning process) reflects the principles and expectations established through the Policy Statement.

It is not the Ministry's expectation that municipalities will be bound by their plans for the entire 20 to 25-year planning horizon; but rather, plans should be updated to reflect changing local circumstances (see section 3.14).

To support municipalities in developing effective waste management plans, the Ministry of the Environment will develop guidance material to support this statement.

1.0 Strategic Directions

When developing municipal waste management plans, the province's expectation is that the framework for waste management decisions (as outlined in Part II of this Policy Statement) will be applied to decision-making. The following section provides additional direction to municipalities on the framework.

1.1 Integrated waste management

A municipal waste management plan should employ an integrated waste management system that combines waste diversion and disposal options in a way that is appropriate for local circumstances. When developing an integrated waste management system, municipalities should consider the waste management principles that this Statement articulates in Part II and Figure 1: The Waste Value Chain (which is further described in Section 1.6, below).

When examining waste management options to decide on an appropriate system, municipalities should consider all the potential economic, social and environmental elements of each option.

1.2 Proximity

Waste should be managed as close as possible to the source of generation.

1.3 Strategic planning

Waste management planning is most effective when integrated, on an ongoing basis, with other municipal planning decisions, including but not limited to, development, infrastructure and financial planning. Waste management plans should be integrated with, or become an element of, other broad municipal planning activities, such as economic development, growth, environmental or sustainability plans.

1.4 Cooperation among municipalities

The province encourages cooperation among municipalities to seek efficiencies and to find mutually acceptable solutions to waste management. This partnership approach could expand the waste management options available to the municipalities involved.

Also, such an approach can have financial benefits (for instance, from the economies of scale that can be realized by regional facilities) and at the same time allow municipalities to make waste management decisions relevant to local circumstances. Smaller municipalities may also benefit from sharing the cost of plan development, by partnering with other municipalities or regions.

1.5 Public engagement

Public consultation should be integrated with the waste management planning and decision-making process, from beginning to end and should be aligned with other long-range planning consultations.

The methods used to evaluate all elements of the plan, including all options being considered, should be made clear during consultation.

1.6 Waste value chain

The Ministry of the Environment expects that municipalities will consider waste management options according to the 3Rs — reduce, reuse and recycle — and that, where feasible, all methods of resource recovery will be considered prior to final disposal of waste (see Figure 1).

A. Waste prevention

While recognizing that industry producers and stewards have a significant contribution to make within this area, municipalities should also be focusing on waste prevention as a first step. This could include creating programs to encourage reducing waste at the source, such as consumer education programs (e.g., helping consumers to identify packaging that is recyclable through the municipality's recycling program) or financial incentives (e.g., user-pay systems that charge waste management fees based on the amount of non-recyclable waste that is disposed). Municipalities can also make purchasing decisions that focus on buying products or services for municipal operations that minimize waste management costs.

B. Waste diversion

Reuse activities should be fostered throughout municipal operations by providing space for and information about reuse centres for residential waste. This ensures that the useful life of products is exhausted prior to recycling.

Recycling products and materials that cannot be used, and diverting organics through composting and anaerobic digestion, are integral options for maximizing the rate of diversion from disposal.

C. Waste disposal

Recovering energy from *thermal treatment* or landfill (e.g. methane capture) should be considered prior to *thermal treatment* or landfill without energy recovery.

2.0 Scope of Municipal Waste Management Plans

2.1. Types of waste the plan will cover

Municipal waste

To be effective, waste management plans should cover all residential waste (single and multi-family) generated within the *study area* and all other waste managed by the municipality, including:

- Residential waste collected on behalf of a municipality (e.g., by a private contractor);
- Any waste collected through a curb side collection program, such as leaf and yard waste, blue box and green bin programs for organic food waste;
- Waste generated by municipal operations;
- IC&I and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste collected by the municipality; and
- All wastes received, or to be disposed at, municipal transfer stations, landfills, composting facilities and material recovery facilities.

Biosolids

A number of municipalities are already managing *sewage biosolids* through the preparation of Nutrient Management Strategies in accordance with the requirements of the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002*, and Ontario Regulation 267/03.

The ministry does not intend that municipalities duplicate efforts. Rather, waste management plans should reference waste being managed through land application and plan for anticipated changes over time (i.e., covered by Nutrient Management Strategies).

Biosolids that are not covered by a Nutrient Management Strategy (for example, biosolids that are put in landfills or incinerated) should be integrated into municipalities' waste management plans.

2.2 Timing

All municipalities, regardless of size and location, should have a waste management plan in place, or be covered by a plan developed by another municipality (e.g., a regional municipal waste management plan).

It would be appropriate for large municipalities (with populations of 100,000 or greater) to have completed and begun implementation of a waste management plan that conforms to the guidance provided in this statement, by [*insert date* – 2 years after statement is finalized].

It would be appropriate for small municipalities (with populations under 100,000) to have completed and begun implementation of a waste management plan that conforms to the guidance provided in this statement, by [*insert date* – 2.5 years after statement is finalized].

Planning period

At minimum, municipal waste management plans should cover a 20 to 25-year planning period.

2.3 Appropriate level of government

The *Municipal Act*, 2001, provides broad authority to lower-tier municipalities to develop bylaws and provide services for waste management (unless specifically assigned to an upper-tier municipality), and to undertake long-term waste management planning (including planning for waste management facilities). For each municipality, this means considering whether the plan should cover a local service area, or if the municipality should partner with neighbouring municipalities to develop a plan that covers a larger service area, e.g., one defined by political or regional boundaries.

3.0 Minimum Recommended Plan Content

This section outlines what a municipal waste management plan should contain, at a minimum. A municipality should add to the plan as is deemed suitable.

At minimum, municipal waste management plans should include the following elements:

1. Stated problem

2. Goals and objectives
3. Area that the plan will cover
4. Present waste generation trends and waste management practices and systems
5. Projected waste management needs over the planning period
6. Diversion strategy
7. Description of the planned waste management system
8. Cost and financing strategy
9. Implementation timelines
10. Contingencies
11. Monitoring and reporting system
12. Plan Review
13. Public education strategy
14. Public consultation record

Each of these elements is described further below.

3.1 Stated problem

Include a discussion of factors driving the need to review current waste management programs (i.e., economic/population growth, landfill capacity constraints, etc.).

Based on the current waste management situation, state the problem or situation that the plan must address (e.g., a municipality with a growing population and less than 10 years' waste disposal capacity, at current growth rates, may choose to develop a plan to maximize potential diversion activities, to extend the lifespan of existing disposal capacity).

3.2 Goals and objectives

Set broad goals and objectives for the plan (e.g., enhanced diversion) along with associated targets (e.g., set a percentage increase in waste generated to be diverted from disposal over the planning period).

When setting targets, municipalities should consider the provincial goal of 60% diversion from disposal and describe how and by what date this goal will be attained. If this diversion target is not feasible over the timeframe for the plan, identify the reasons why.

3.3 Area that the plan will cover

Define the *study area* with consideration of Section 1.2 of this Statement. The waste management plan must account for all waste (identified in Section 2.1 of this Statement) that is generated within this *study area*.

All municipalities within the delineated *study area* should have agreed to a cooperative approach and be committed to the terms of that plan.

3.4 Present waste generation trends and waste management practices and systems

Describe the current solid waste management system:

- the percentage and tonnes of waste diverted (provide details);
- the percentage and tonnes of waste going to various disposal (provide details);
- a summary of existing diversion programs;
- an inventory of residual materials generated; and
- information about the facilities that deal with treated, processed, recovered or disposed waste, including the remaining lifetime of those facilities.

Current residential diversion and disposal data should match information submitted for the [Waste Diversion Ontario \(WDO\)](#) and the [Municipal Performance Measurement Program \(MPMP\)](#) in the year the plan is completed.

3.5 Projected waste management needs over the planning period

Estimate future processing/disposal capacity needs for municipal waste that will be generated during the planning period. Describe the variables affecting this estimate and the extent to which they can reasonably be expected to change.

Supporting information from previously developed reports/studies could contribute to estimating the amount and type of waste expected to be generated over the planning period (e.g., waste audits, demographics studies and economic projections). The plan should reference these documents.

As these documents may be lengthy and/or technical, it may be helpful to summarize the key outcomes or findings of supporting reports within the waste management plan. Also, if these reports are not attached to the municipal waste management plan as a technical appendix, they should be made available to the public in the same manner as the plan (e.g., accessible on the same web page).

Links to strategic planning documents, such as growth plans, Official Plans, or sustainability plans should also be indicated.

3.6 Diversion strategy

Provide a detailed analysis of municipal solid waste management options and a recommended strategy for maximum diversion of municipal waste. Include options considered (e.g., functionally different activities or solutions to deal with waste), criteria used to evaluate options and determine strategy, and an explanation of how selected approach will meet established targets.

Describe diversion programs that will be implemented and show the individual contribution of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery as components of the diversion plan.

3.7 Description of the planned waste management system

Provide a description of the future solid waste management system envisioned to ensure adequate waste management capacity over the remainder of the planning period, including facilities to be used for either diversion or disposal. Specific facilities should be identified if they are already approved and/or operational. If facilities have not yet been approved, briefly describe their current status and/or plans to move forward for their approval.

3.8 Cost and financing strategy

Include a cost analysis for all proposed components of the plan, including the capital and operating costs to implement the plan.

The plan should address financing strategies for the cost of all sites, facilities and programs in the plan, including cost-recovery mechanisms.

Strategic financing decisions should be clearly articulated (e.g., if a user-pay system is going to be introduced).

A detailed 10-year financial plan should be sufficient, but must be revisited periodically to ensure that it remains relevant throughout the entire planning period (20 to 25 years).

3.9 Implementation timelines

Include an implementation plan, with timelines for each component of the plan.

3.10 Contingencies

Indicate any implementation risks that could interfere with the achievement of critical objectives and include contingency actions.

3.11 Monitoring and reporting system

Describe how the municipality will monitor the plan's implementation.

Prepare an annual update report that includes, at minimum, data and information on the following elements:

- waste generated (by type and by weight)
- diversion rates achieved (by type and by weight and by what means)
- diversion rates achieved (expressed as a percentage and measured against set diversion targets)
- waste disposed (by type and by weight and by what means)
- remaining waste disposal capacity
- any planning activities (e.g., introduction of new programs, studies, or consultations).

Diversion and disposal data should match information submitted for the Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) Datacall (and include a reiteration of the previous year's figure as verified by WDO).

3.12 Plan Review

Describe how and when the municipality will review the plan to ensure that it remains relevant.

At minimum, plans should be reviewed and revised when a municipality has less than 10 years' waste disposal capacity remaining.

Municipalities may wish to coordinate the review of the waste management plan with the five-year review of the municipality's Official Plan, as required by the *Planning Act*. This will help to integrate waste management planning with municipal land-use planning and planning for growth.

3.13 Public education strategy

Include an *ongoing* public awareness and education strategy for waste programs included in the plan.

3.14 Public consultation record

Describe the public consultation undertaken to develop the plan and how the plan addresses the public's issues and concerns. If the plan does not address some of the public's issues and concerns, the municipality's reasons for not addressing these should be explained.

At a minimum, the municipality should consult on the waste management plan with its residents and all communities potentially affected by the elements of the plan, including First Nations. These communities may include host communities for waste processing or disposal facilities, communities adjacent to host communities, or communities through which waste may have to be transported to reach the host community.

The municipality should ensure that it considers and integrates the concerns of affected communities into its decision-making process prior to using and/or establishing a new facility, and throughout its lifetime.

The plan should be accessible to the public through a convenient means (e.g., website posting in areas where broadband access is widespread).

4.0 Integration with Approvals Processes

4.1 Approval of plans by municipal council

Municipal council should approve all waste management plans.

4.2 Environmental assessment processes for waste management undertakings

When developing waste management plans, and the implementation schedule for the plans, municipalities should consider the time required to complete the Environmental Assessment process for waste management projects that are included in the plan. Ontario Regulation 101/07 (waste management projects) under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) prescribes how certain waste management projects will be assessed under the EAA. The regulation classifies waste management projects based on the type of waste to be used, the size and, in some cases, the ability of the planned facility to recover energy from the waste in relation to EA requirements.

A comprehensive guide has been developed to help proponents of waste management projects, consultants, the public and other interested persons understand the EA requirements for waste management projects which are set out in the regulation.

EA is not intended to re-examine questions/issues that have previously been answered through other planning mechanisms/approvals. Rather the EAA provides an opportunity for proponents to provide the Minister with information from other planning process which he/she will rely upon for decision making purposes. This could include information developed as part of the waste management planning process. Proponents are responsible for providing the necessary material/information demonstrating how these issues have been resolved during previous planning processes to justify the limited scope.

Note: In January 2007, the Ministry of the Environment concluded consultations through the Environmental Registry on the document *Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario* (the Ministry is now finalizing this document, taking into account stakeholder feedback). The Code of Practice provides guidance on how to integrate previous planning work, such as municipal waste management plans, into the environmental assessment process, and includes the following elements:

- Examination of alternative responses to problems, challenges, or opportunities;
- Regard for the environment and environmental effects;
- Public consultation with interested persons (public, municipalities);
- Ability for the public to inspect the planning document in its entirety; and
- Approval by a recognized decision-making body in a transparent manner (municipal council resolution).

Proponents should refer to the Code of Practice for further information.

Definitions

Anaerobic digestion: Anaerobic digestion is the biological decomposition of organic matter, by bacteria, in the absence of oxygen in an enclosed vessel. Anaerobic digestion produces a biogas, a partially stabilized soil-like material, and a liquid effluent. The biogas consists mainly of methane and carbon dioxide and can be burned to produce energy.

Design for the Environment: The examination of a product's entire lifecycle, and incorporation of changes to product design, in order to minimize its environmental footprint.

Municipal waste: This term includes

- (a) any waste, whether or not it is owned, controlled or managed by a municipality, except
 - (i) hazardous waste,
 - (ii) liquid industrial waste, or
 - (iii) gaseous waste; and
- (b) solid fuel, whether or not it is waste, that is derived in whole or in part from the waste included in clause (a)

(R.R.O. 1990, REGULATION 347, EPA).

Sewage biosolids: The residue from a sewage treatment works following treatment of sewage and removal of effluent (O. Reg. 267/03, NMA).

Study area: The area covered by the waste management plan. It is up to municipal waste management decision makers to define the study area. Its definition may be decided based on one or more municipal boundaries or waste facility service areas. Defining the study area can be a strategic decision, within or among municipalities, to enable the coordination of actions for development of waste management solutions that will result in the most benefit.

Thermal treatment: This type of treatment includes incineration, gasification, pyrolysis or plasma arc treatment (O. Reg. 101/07, EAA).

APPENDIX

Excerpt from the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005

Section 1.6.8 of the Provincial Policy Statement on land-use planning, issued under the authority of Section 3 of the *Planning Act*, states that:

Waste management systems need to be provided that are of an appropriate size and type to accommodate present and future requirements, and facilitate, encourage and promote reduction, reuse and recycling objectives.

Waste management systems shall be located and designed in accordance with provincial legislation and standards.

Excerpt from the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006

The *Places to Grow Act*, 2005, requires all municipal planning decisions made under the *Planning Act* and the *Condominium Act*, 1998, to comply with the policies of growth plans developed under the Act. The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe was released in 2006. The Growth Plan outlines strategies for where and how the Greater Golden Horseshoe region should grow over the next 25 years.

The Growth Plan states that municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe will develop and implement official plan policies and other strategies in support of conservation objectives including the following objectives on integrated waste management (See the Growth Plan, Section 4.2.4 A Culture of Conservation, Clause 1(d)):

- i. Enhanced waste reduction, composting, and recycling initiatives and the identification of new opportunities for source reduction, reuse, and diversion where appropriate
- ii. A comprehensive plan with integrated approaches to waste management, including reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, diversion and the disposal of residual waste
- iii. Promotion of reuse and recycling of construction materials
- iv. Consideration of waste management initiatives within the context of long-term regional planning, and in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities